IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An acetylene cylinder assembly, comprising:

a portable housing configured to hold a plurality of acetylene cylinders, wherein the acetylene cylinders are arranged vertically in the portable housing such that a first end of the each cylinder contacts a platform of the portable housing; [[and]]

a manifold connected to a second end of the plurality of acetylene cylinders secured in the portable housing for simultaneously filling or discharging the plurality of acetylene cylinders, the manifold having an acetylene gas inlet/discharge coupling connectable to an acetylene gas supply to deliver acetylene gas from the acetylene gas supply to the plurality of acetylene cylinders; and

a cock valve adapted to couple the manifold with the acetylene gas inlet/discharge coupling.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of conduits connected to the manifold, each conduit being connected to an associated acetylene cylinder of the plurality of acetylene cylinders.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of valves connected to the manifold, each valve being adapted for coupling with an associated acetylene cylinder of the plurality of acetylene cylinders.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a pressure regulator interposed between the manifold and the acetylene gas discharge coupling.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein each acetylene cylinder of the plurality of acetylene cylinders contains a low vapor pressure solvent.

7. (Currently Amended) An acetylene cylinder filling assembly for simultaneously filling a plurality of acetylene cylinders containing a low vapor pressure solvent, the filling assembly comprising:

a frame arrangement on which only the acetylene cylinder filling assembly is supported;

an acetylene gas inlet coupling adapted for coupling the filling assembly with an acetylene gas supply;

a manifold connected to the acetylene gas inlet coupling for receiving acetylene gas from the acetylene gas supply apparatus; and

a plurality of conduits connected to the manifold, each conduit being connected to an associated acetylene cylinder of the plurality of acetylene cylinders for delivering the acetylene gas from the manifold to the associated acetylene cylinder, wherein the low vapor pressure solvent has a vapor pressure of less than 5 mmHg at 25°C.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The filling assembly of claim 7, wherein the low vapor pressure solvent is one of dimethylformamide, n-dimethylsulfoxide, hexamethylphosphoramide, ethylpyrrolidone and n-methylpyrrolidone.

10. (Original) The filling assembly of claim 7, further comprising a cock valve adapted to couple the manifold with the acetylene gas inlet coupling.

11. (Original) The filling assembly of claim 7, further comprising a pressure regulator interposed between the manifold and an acetylene gas discharge coupling for simultaneously discharging the plurality of acetylene cylinders.

12. (Previously Presented) An acetylene cylinder assembly comprising:

a frame housing a plurality of vertically disposed acetylene cylinders, the frame having a top portion and a bottom portion; and an acetylene cylinder filling/dispensing assembly disposed on the top portion of the frame, the acetylene cylinder filling/dispensing assembly comprising a manifold connected to the plurality of acetylene cylinders for simultaneously filling or discharging the plurality of acetylene cylinders, the manifold having an acetylene gas inlet/discharge coupling connectable to an acetylene gas supply to deliver acetylene gas from the acetylene gas supply to the plurality of acetylene cylinders, wherein each acetylene cylinder of the plurality of acetylene cylinders contains n-methylpyrrolidone.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The cylinder assembly of claim 12 [[13]], wherein the n-methylpyrrolidone [[low vapor pressure solvent]] has a vapor pressure of less than about 5 mmHg at 25°C.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The cylinder assembly of claim 12, wherein the acetylene cylinder filling/dispensing assembly further comprises a plurality of conduits connected to the manifold, each conduit being connected to an associated acetylene cylinder of the plurality of acetylene cylinders.

17. (Original) The cylinder assembly of claim 12, wherein the acetylene cylinder filling/dispensing assembly further comprises a plurality of valves connected to the manifold, each valve being adapted for coupling with an associated acetylene cylinder of the plurality of acetylene cylinders.

18. (Original) The cylinder assembly of claim 12, wherein the acetylene cylinder filling/dispensing assembly further comprises a cock valve adapted to couple the manifold with the acetylene gas inlet coupling.

19. (Original) The cylinder assembly of claim 18 wherein the acetylene cylinder filling/dispensing assembly further comprises a pressure regulator interposed between the manifold and the acetylene gas discharge coupling.

20. (Original) The cylinder assembly of claim 12, wherein the acetylene cylinder filling/dispensing assembly further comprises an acetylene gas outlet coupling adapted to couple the manifold with a consumer apparatus.

21. (Previously Presented) An acetylene cylinder assembly comprising:

a frame housing a plurality of acetylene cylinders containing a low vapor pressure solvent, wherein the low vapor pressure solvent has a vapor pressure of less than 5 mmHg at 25°C to substantially eliminate a resolventing procedure during each fill cycle; and

an acetylene cylinder filling/dispensing assembly comprising:

an acetylene gas inlet coupling adapted for coupling the filling/dispensing assembly to an acetylene gas supply;

a manifold connected to the acetylene gas inlet coupling for receiving acetylene gas from the acetylene gas supply or at least one of the plurality of acetylene cylinders;

a plurality of conduits connected to the manifold, each conduit being connected to an associated acetylene cylinder of the plurality of acetylene cylinders for delivering the acetylene gas from the acetylene gas supply to the associated acetylene cylinder; and

an acetylene gas outlet coupling adapted to couple the filling/dispensing assembly with a consumer apparatus for delivering the acetylene gas from the at least one of the plurality of acetylene cylinders to the consumer apparatus.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The cylinder assembly of claim 21, wherein the low vapor pressure solvent is one of dimethylformamide, n-dimethylsulfoxide, hexamethylphosphoramide, ethylpyrrolidone and n-methylpyrrolidone.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method for simultaneously filling a plurality of acetylene cylinders, the method comprising:

solventing each cylinder with a low vapor solvent;

coupling an acetylene gas inlet coupling with an acetylene gas supply for receiving acetylene gas from the acetylene gas supply, wherein the acetylene gas inlet coupling is in fluid communication with the plurality of acetylene cylinders arranged on a portable housing;

supplying the acetylene gas from the acetylene gas supply through a manifold to the plurality of acetylene cylinders for simultaneously filling the plurality of acetylene cylinders;

dispensing the acetylene gas from the plurality of acetylene cylinders to a consumer apparatus; and

supplying the acetylene gas from the acetylene gas supply through the manifold to the plurality of acetylene cylinders for simultaneously filling the plurality of acetylene cylinders without resolventing each cylinder.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the low vapor pressure solvent has a vapor pressure of less than 5 mmHg at 25°C.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the low vapor pressure solvent is one of dimethylformamide, dimethylsulfoxide, hexamethylphosphoramide, ethylpyrrolidone and n-methylpyrrolidone.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising decoupling the acetylene gas inlet coupling from the acetylene gas supply.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising charging/receiving a fee for the filling.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

flowing the acetylene gas from the acetylene gas supply into the acetylene gas inlet coupling;

flowing the acetylene gas from the acetylene gas inlet coupling into the manifold;

flowing the acetylene gas from the manifold to a plurality of conduits, each conduit being connected to an associated acetylene cylinder of the plurality of acetylene cylinders; and

flowing the acetylene gas from the plurality of conduits to the plurality of acetylene cylinders.

31. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the platform configured as a skid to allow the assembly to be moved as one unit.